

PERCENT OF LIVE BIRTHS WITH LOW BIRTHWEIGHT BY COUNTY AND RACE

Objective

By 1990, no county and no racial or ethnic group of the population (e.g., Black, Hispanic, American Indian) should have a rate of low birthweight infants that exceeds nine percent of all live births.

Explanatory Notes

Low birthweight infants are those weighing under 2,500 grams at birth. In order to present more stable rates, county rates are for the five-year period 1982-86. For purposes of this report, low birthweight rates (percentages) by race are calculated for whites and nonwhites.

Findings

During 1982-86, nineteen of the state's 100 counties experienced low birthweight rates above 9.0 percent as shown on page 32. Thirteen of those 19 rates were under 10.0 percent, however. For all 100 counties, the percentages ranged from 4.6 in Clay to 11.0 in Edgecombe.

The low birthweight percentage for North Carolina whites has fluctuated only slightly during the eighties. The nonwhite percentage was the same in 1986 as in 1980 and still 31 percent above the national target. Nationally, this objective has been met for each racial or ethnic group except Blacks whose 1990 projected rate is 12.1 percent (3).

Data Sources

North Carolina: State Center for Health Statistics
United States: National Center for Health Statistics

PERCENT LOW BIRTHWEIGHT ABOVE 9.0

